

Dr. Peterson
McCamish Pavilion Dedication

1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1, 2012

Thank you Wes. This is the day that we've all been looking forward to since we gathered together for the groundbreaking in May 2011. It is one thing to see the renderings and try to envision the completed facility. It is another to stand here and see the beauty of the open design, the architectural details, and get a sense of the excitement to come from all of the basketball competitions and special events in the years ahead.

We've had it open for tours before a couple of the home football games, but it will really come alive when thousands of fans fill it for the first men's and then the first women's basketball games in a little over a week, with the men playing Nov. 9 against the Tulane Green Wave and the women taking on the Tennessee Vols two days later.

I think it's safe to say that most of Georgia Tech's 21,000 students will be in McCamish Pavilion several times during their years at Tech. They'll come here for games, convocations and special events, and then with families and friends as they celebrate commencement. Alumni will come back here, and bring their families and friends. It will be a place where Georgia Tech traditions are celebrated and memories are created.

Because McCamish Pavilion can be seen from the Interstate, it is a highly visible symbol of Georgia Tech. It is also a symbol of the power of partnerships. For the past several months we've had a sign along the interstate near the McCamish Pavilion that says "Philanthropy at Work."

This beautiful facility has become a reality because of the generosity and vision of the future of Hank and Margaret McCamish. As a public research university, we look to people like the McCamish family to help take the Institute and its programs from good

to great. They do it with their financial resources, their time, and by sharing their wisdom. Since Hank McCamish graduated in Industrial Management in 1950 he has helped provide leadership for the Institute and its programs, serving on various boards and chairing reunion committees. He has also made a huge impact in the community, including serving as chairman of the board of Leading the Way International, the Georgia Public Policy Foundation and the Children's Education Foundation.

During his senior year, Hank was editor of Tech's yearbook, the Blueprint. It is interesting to note that he found a way to get his mother's picture in it. In the "beauties" section, followed by pages of beautiful co-eds there are also photos of sponsors. Mrs. Minnie W. McCamish's photo appears by is Hank McCamish's name as his sponsor.

Also in that yearbook is a tribute to athletic director and long-time Tech football coach William Anderson Alexander, who passed away that year. Below his picture were excerpts from a quote on success by Robert Lewis Stevenson:

"He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much; who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task, and who has left the world better than when he found it."

I'm confident Hank had a hand in choosing that quote, and 62 years later, it also applies to him.

On behalf of the entire Georgia Tech family, we thank you for the difference you have made, and will make, in thousands of lives.